

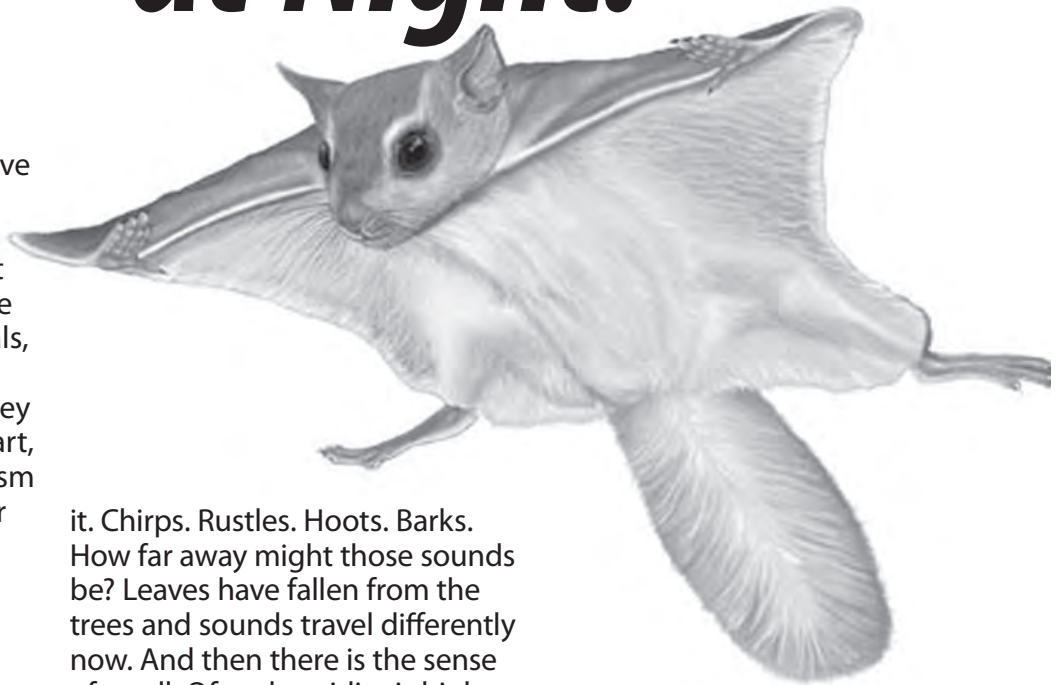


## Go Outside – at Night!

**M**any animals such as butterflies are almost always active during the day.

They are diurnal. Other animals such as flying squirrels are most active during the night. They are nocturnal. And still other animals, such as foxes are active in the dimness of twilight or dawn. They are crepuscular. For the most part, people are diurnal. Each organism is equipped with adaptations or characteristics that help them survive and thrive whether it is daylight, nightlight or twilight.

We may not share some of the unique characteristics of nocturnal animals - specialized eyes to see in the dark, exceptional hearing, and the color necessary to blend in – but we can still get outside at night and enjoy nature. Spend time letting your eyes adjust to the darkness of a winter night and you will be amazed at the natural light that abounds. Some nights, you are even able to see your shadow! If your eyesight is not quite as sharp at night, your hearing may be sharper. Take away one sense and another is heightened. Try



it. Chirps. Rustles. Hoots. Barks. How far away might those sounds be? Leaves have fallen from the trees and sounds travel differently now. And then there is the sense of smell. Often humidity is higher at night and that enhances our olfactory nodes. Do you smell the cedar trees more now?

Do you smell and feel the crispness of the winter air? Do not let the shortened daylight hours of winter hinder your enjoyment of the natural world. When the dimness of evening arrives, take that as an invitation to go outside. Experience the life that thrives and survives at all hours of the day and night.

—Robin Grumm,  
Assist. Nature Center Manager

*Diurnal* - of or belonging to the daytime.

*Nocturnal* - of or relating to the night

*Crepuscular* - of, relating to, or resembling twilight; dim; indistinct.

## Volunteer News

### Milestones

*Congratulations to the following volunteers for their hours of service:*

**100 hours** – Rachel Campbell, Jim Cunningham,  
Rose Mehmert, Glenn Reynolds, Paul Winn

**400 hours** – Stephanie Durbin, Bill Kuensting,  
Crystal Lueckenhoff

**1250 hours** – Nanci Beck, Janet Ruse

**2000 hours** – Anne Hutton

**3000 hours** – Ken Christgen

**6000 hours** – Kay Kasiske

The staff at the Runge Nature Center are THANKFUL for all the dedicated volunteers who are . . .

**T** RUSTWORTHY  
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**V** ALUABLE  
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## Exhibitors

### Lobby Exhibit

### MARVELOUS MUSHROOMS and SLIME MOLDS of the OZARKS

Mark Bower, a Missouri Master Naturalist, has a passion for photographing mushrooms and the incredibly beautiful slime molds.

This exhibit will feature some of the most colorful, weird, and wonderful organisms in the Ozarks.



Runge Conservation Nature Center  
will be closed on  
the following days:  
Veterans, Thanksgiving,  
Christmas, and New Years.

New Years Eve the nature center  
will be closing at 5 PM.

# For the Little Ones...

Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

## Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus caregiver.

## On Winter Break...

The **Babes In the Woods** program (children ages 0 through 2 years of age) and the **Little Acorns PLUS** program (families with toddlers and preschoolers) will take a break until spring. Please watch for the March/April issue of *Habitat Happenings* for a listing of these programs.



### Discover Nature Programs...

- Help Missourians discover and explore nature
- Provide expert instruction and hands-on activities
- Are available statewide

<http://mdc.mo.gov/discover-nature>



## November

Registration begins November 2nd.

573-526-5544

### Turkey Talk

A turkey is a very funny bird, his head goes wobble, wobble, wobble. But the only thing a turkey says, is gobble, gobble, gobble! This month we will walk, talk, and learn ALL about turkeys! Join us!

### Little Acorns

November 13 • Friday • 10 AM  
November 18 • Wednesday • 10 AM  
November 24 • Tuesday • 10 AM

## December

Registration begins December 1st.

573-526-5544

### Animal Clues

I spy a raccoon or is it an opossum? How can you tell? This month we will learn about various clues that help us to find out what animal was here! Come and be a nature detective with us.

### Little Acorns

December 10 • Thursday • 10 AM  
December 15 • Tuesday • 10 AM  
December 18 • Friday • 10 AM

*"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist*

# Runge Calendar of Events - November

Get outdoors and experience what nature has provided for you.



*Registration begins November 2nd.*

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Design With Nature in Mind: Pressed Plant Pendant

November 7 • Saturday • 9:30 AM–Noon  
*Registration required (women, 18 and older)*

Let nature inspire your polymer clay pendant! Join guest naturalist Cyndi Cogbill, of Pawpaw Patch Productions, as she guides you through the process of pressing leaves, twigs, pods, and other natural materials in polymer clay to create a pendant with nature in mind.

## Handcrafted Papermaking-Naturally

November 12 • Thursday • 6–8 PM  
*Registration required (ages 9 and older)*  
Did you know the wasp was the original paper maker? Join us to learn about making handmade paper from pulp - the modern way! We will blend newspapers, magazines, even unwanted junk mail with pieces of nature - seeds, leaves, petals, snake skin, and more - to create not just paper, but works of art! Discover how nature and recycling go hand-in-hand. Learn different techniques to try at home. Please bring several magazines and a bath size towel.

The Runge Conservation Nature Center is located one-third mile north of Hwy 50 on Hwy 179, at 330 Commerce Drive, Jefferson City, Missouri.

### BUILDING HOURS:

Tuesday–Saturday: 8 AM–5 PM  
Thursday: 8 AM–8 PM  
Closed Sunday & Monday

### TRAIL HOURS:

Open daily 6 AM–9 PM

<http://mdc.mo.gov/regions/central/>

## Adventure Birding

November 14 • Saturday • 8 AM–3 PM  
*Registration required (ages 11 and older, children accompanied by an adult)*

This month the birding adventure takes place at Ha-Ha Tonka State Park in the hopes of seeing kinglets and other amazing birds. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and binoculars (or borrow a pair of ours). Meet at the nature center and carpool from there.

## What's Going On?: Handcrafted Papermaking-Naturally

November 14 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Refer to November 12th for description. Plus, there will be activities in the lobby.

## Nature's Needlers

November 19 • Thursday • 10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM  
*Registration required (ages 18 and older)*  
This bird is a Woody Woodpecker look-a-like. Learn about the large and loud pileated woodpecker inhabiting our forests; the eleventh block in the "Woodland Tapestry" series.

## For Adults Only: Night Hike

November 20 • Friday • 7:30–9 PM  
*Registration required (18 years and older)*  
Enjoy the crisp autumn air while taking a guided night hike along Runge's Towering Oak trail. The sounds and smells of the evening will be enhanced as our sense of sight will only be lit by the moon.

## Puppet Show: Creatures of the Night!

November 21 • Saturday • 1–1:30 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
Flying Squirrel has a problem; he's afraid of the dark. Instead of looking for food after the sun goes down, he wants to hide from what might happen after the sun goes down. Come see if Firefly, Bat, Red Fox, and other nocturnal creatures can help him understand what's frightening him and gain confidence.

## Shopping Alternatives: Squirrely Squirrels

November 27 • Friday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
STOP! You need a break from the squirrely, crazy, shopping lines! Come to Runge. Get to know our Missouri squirrels: grey, fox, thirteen-lined, and flying. We will have squirrel games, crafts, and exploratory stations. Don't let the holiday season drive you nuts. Relax by the fire and allow nature to soothe you.



## Aquarium and Snake Feeding

November 27 • Friday • 1:30 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*  
The animals are hungry. Join us and watch as we feed the aquarium fish, snapping turtles, and snakes.

Runge Conservation Nature Center will be closed on the following days: Veterans, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years.

New Years Eve the nature center will be closing at 5 PM.



# Runge Calendar of Events - December

Get outdoors and experience what nature is sharing with you.

*Registration begins December 1st.*

Programs are free. Call 573-526-5544 to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list.

## Children's Book Discussion

December 5 • Saturday • 9:30–10:30 AM  
*Registration required (all readers)*

Bring one of your favorite children's books about nature and share your enthusiasm with others. We'll be looking at everything from picture books to beginning readers. All readers are welcome who are interested in talking about what they read. Perhaps you'll discover an over-looked gem that would be a perfect holiday gift.

## What's Going On?:

### BEAR Necessities

December 5 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM  
*No registration required (all ages)*

Discover one of Missouri's largest mammals, the Black Bear, and the "necessities" they require for survival through hands-on displays and activities.

## River Bluffs Audubon Society: History of the Missouri Department of Conservation

December 10 • Thursday • 6:30–7:30 PM  
*No registration required (adults)*

Jim Low, retired media specialist, from the Missouri Department of Conservation will speak about the history of the department from the perspective of a news reporter. Sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society.

## Homeschool: Let's Talk Scat!

December 11 • Friday • 1–2:30 PM  
*Registration required (ages 8 and older)*

Scat is more than poop! It's a way to identify wild animals and understand their diet. Today, we will talk scat, identify scat, and create (replica) scat. This program will hit both science and art curriculums.

## What's Going On?:

### Animal Tracks

December 12 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

Track into Runge and learn about Missouri animal tracks. There will be activities and crafts. **Bring a pair of clean, white socks and make a sock track craft.**

## Nature's Needlers

December 17 • Thursday •

10:30 AM–Noon **OR** 6–7:30 PM

*Registration required (ages 18 and older)*

Learn how the story of the short-leaf pine tree contributes to awareness for conserving our natural resources. This block completes the "Woodland Tapestry" series.

## What's Going On?:

### Winter Birds

December 19 • Saturday • 10 AM–2 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*



The Adventure Birding group from Runge invites everyone to visit the nature center and learn more about backyard birds in Missouri. This is also the time for the annual Christmas Bird Count, the longest running Citizen Science Survey in the world. Enjoy activities in the lobby, movies about birds, and visit these

websites for ways to become involved in birding and in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC). <https://sites.google.com/site/riverbluffsaudubonsociety/> and <https://www.audubon.org/content/history-christmas-bird-count>.

## Holiday Happenings

December 29 • Tuesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 30 • Wednesday • 10 AM–3 PM

December 31 • Thursday • 10 AM–3 PM

*No registration required (all ages)*

It's tradition! Visiting with family and friends is an important part of the holidays. Many folks have made it a tradition to visit Runge Nature Center over the holidays to enjoy a variety of programs and activities. We hope you are one of them. If not, start your tradition this year.



MDC  
**DISCOVER**  
**nature**

Connect to  
*Runge*  
Conservation  
**Nature**  
Center  
with a text.

Text the word  
"MDC Runge"  
to 468311.

Subscribers will receive up to six  
texts a month to remind you of  
free events at the Nature Center.

## 2016

### Nature's Needlers– "The Seasons of Nature"

Runge Nature's Needlers invites you to enjoy nature through all seasons of the year. Traditional quilt block designs will be used to reveal the natural wonders of Missouri's seasons.

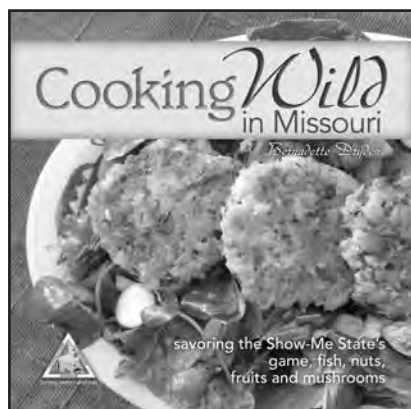
## Gift Shop...

The November and December 20% off featured item is ...

### *Cooking Wild in Missouri*

# \$12.00

plus tax\*



\*The Heritage Card does not apply.

## New Item



# \$7

plus tax

*Mother Nature is always up to something. Let the Natural Events Calendar be your guide to what's going on throughout the year.*

## Calling All Hikers

Exploring the great outdoors

Runge has three volunteer-led programs designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month we'll meet at the nature center and drive to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots and hike one or two of the best trails. Some transportation is provided, but carpooling may be necessary. Bring water, wear comfortable hiking shoes, and come dressed for the weather.

### Half-Day Discovery Hikes

November 7 • Saturday • 8 AM–Noon      Registration begins November 2nd.  
*Registration required (ages 8 and older - children must be accompanied by an adult)*  
Location: Rock Bridge Memorial State Park, located in Columbia.  
Trail Length: approximately 3 miles      Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.  
Focus: Enjoy hiking the awesome Shooting Star Trail.

### Midweek Trekkers

November 18 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM      Registration begins November 2nd.  
*Registration required (adults)*  
Location: Young Conservation Area, located in Jefferson County.  
Trail Length: 6 miles      Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.  
Notes: Bring lunch.

December 16 • Wednesday • 8 AM–5 PM      Registration begins December 1st.  
*Registration required (adults)*  
Location: Meramec State Park, located in Franklin County.  
Trail Length: 7 miles      Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.  
Note: Bring lunch.

### The Hiking Club

November 21 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM      Registration begins November 2nd.  
*Registration required (adults)*  
Location: Cuivre River State Park, located northwest of St. Louis near Troy.  
Trail Length: 7 miles      Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.  
Note: Bring lunch.

December 12 • Saturday • 8 AM–5 PM      Registration begins December 1st.  
*Registration required (adults)*  
Location: Onondaga State Park, located near Leasburg in Crawford County.  
Trail Length: 3-6 miles (depending on weather)  
Terrain: Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks/roots.  
Note: Bring lunch.

# Conservation Kids' Club

A club created for kids 6–12 years who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

Conservation Kids' Club is a club created for **kids 6-12 years** who love to explore nature. When you make your reservation at 573-526-5544, please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

## Becoming a Night Explorer

November 17 • Tuesday • 6:30–8 PM

*Registration required (November 2 through November 13)*

Did you read the front page newsletter article? NO? Go back and read it. We will be going OUTSIDE at NIGHT and EXPLORING! We will play the game "Disappearing Heads," take a blindfold hike, and unleash the mysteries of nature at night. See you soon—in the dark. Flashlights are not required. Dress for the weather.

## No December meeting.

Enjoy the holidays with your family and friends.  
See you next year.

**Parents/Guardians!** While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for siblings of Conservation Kids' Club members. **Please limit your Little Acorns reservation to one program each month.**



Save The Date...

Grow Native!  
March 26, 2016 Plant Sale



2015

# Holiday Happenings

*Spend a little time at Runge as a part of your holiday celebrations.*

## **December 29**

Tuesday • 10AM–3PM

## **December 30**

Wednesday • 10AM–3PM

## **December 31**

Thursday • 10AM–3PM

- **Nature Crafts**

- **Puppet Shows**

- **Live Music**

- **Free Refreshments**

*No reservations required.*

# Eagle Adventure

January 23, 2016

10 AM–2 PM

- Activities in the Nature Center lobby.
- Live Eagle presentations at 10AM, 11AM, and 1PM.
- Eagle viewing sites with high-powered scopes.

